

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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TAGS: OGEN, CASC, CA, JA, GW, IT

SUBJ: OPRED: PROPOSED EXPANSION OF IRS STAFF

REF: STATE 245877

1. THE INTERNAL REVENUE STAFF IN BONN NOW CONSISTS OF 3 AMERICANS ON REGULAR ASSIGNMENT: AN INTERNAL REVENUE REPRESENTATIVE, AN ASSISTANT AND A SECRETARY. IN ADDITION, FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS OR MORE, AT LEAST TWO AND SOMETIMES THREE ADDITIONAL IRS AMERICANS HAVE BEEN CONTINUOUSLY PRESENT ON TDY AS TAX AUDITORS. THIS HAS USUALLY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY THE ASSIGNMENT ON TDY OF TAX AUDITORS FOR 6 MONTHS AT WHICH TIME THEY RETURN TO THE U.S. AND ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY REPLACED BY OTHER TDY PERSONNEL. THEREFORE, ON THE BASIS OF PHYSICAL PRESENCE, THE STAFF OF THE IRS IN BONN HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE 6 AMERICANS.

2. THE EMBASSY HAS IN THE PAST QUESTIONED THE DESIRABILITY OF STAFFING THE OFFICE OF IRS IN BONN IN THIS MANNER, AND, INsofar AS IT HAS BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE, THE REASONS FOR DOING SO RELATE SOLELY TO THE LACK OF AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN AN INCREASE IN THE OPRED CEILING TO ACCOMMODATE THE REGULAR ASSIGNMENT OF THESE TDY PERSONNEL.

3. THE EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT CONTINUOUS AND PERPETUAL
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TDY ASSIGNMENTS ARE THE BEST WAY TO PERFORM GOVERNMENT

BUSINESS AND BELIEVES THAT THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL SHOULD BE JUSTIFIED UNDER OPRED PROCEDURES, OR FAILING THAT, THAT THESE ASSIGNMENTS BE STOPPED.

4. THE PROPOSED PERMANENT INCREASE IN IRS STAFF PROPOSED IN REFTEL FROM 3 TO 4 IS NOT, AS THE EMBASSY FIRST SUPPOSED, DESIGNED TO REPLACE OR REDUCE THE NEED FOR TDY OFFICERS. ON THE CONTRARY, EVEN AFTER SUCH STAFF INCREASE, THE IRS APPARENTLY PROPOSES TO RETAIN AT LEAST TWO TDY OFFICERS REGULARLY IN BONN.

5. IN THE LIGHT OF THESE PERPETUAL TDY ASSIGNMENTS, THE EMBASSY DOES NOT DOUBT THAT AN INCREASE IN IRS OPRED CEILING IS NEEDED. BECAUSE THE TWO OFFICERS ON TDY HAVE BEEN TAX AUDITORS AND NOT REVENUE AGENTS, IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE PERMANENT INCREASE MIGHT BEST BE USED FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF A TAX AUDITOR VICE A TDY ASSIGNMENT.

6. IN SUMMARY, THE EMBASSY IS NOT OPPOSED TO THE INCREASE IN IRS STAFF FROM 3 TO 4. IT DOES SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE TYPE OF OFFICER ASSIGNED, AND THAT HIS DUTIES BE TIED TO EXISTING WORKLOAD. SECONDLY, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT APPROVAL OF THE OPRED INCREASE SHOULD BE CONNECTED TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRS TO REGULARIZE ITS STAFFING PRACTICES TO MINIMIZE THE EXTENDED PRESENCE OF TDY PERSONNEL IN BONN IN CIRCUMVENTION OF OPRED CONTROLS.

. THE PROPOSED INCREASE DOES NOT CREATE ANY ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PROBLEMS. GOVERNMENT-OWNED QUARTERS, HOWEVER, ARE NOT AVAILABLE. IRS SHOULD AUTHORIZE THE LEASING OF OFFICIAL QUARTERS CHARGEABLE TO IRS APPROPRIATIONS, OR PLAN TO AUTHORIZE QUARTERS ALLOWANCE. OFFICIAL LEASING IS RECOMMENDED AS BEING IN LINE WITH LOCAL PRACTICE, SINCE ALL OTHER EMPLOYEES AT THE POST OCCUPY GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR GOVERNMENT-LEASED QUARTERS.
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